Any Questions?

● SEND your questions on the music scene to ANY QUESTIONS, Melody Maker, 24-34 Meymott Street, London SE1 9LU.

THIN LIZZY'S PHIL LYNOTT: they use an electronic harmonizer made in America but available in Britain.

Evan's air

EXACTLY what is the circular breathing technique as used by saxophone players such as Evan Parker? — **Dan Carry, Barnes, London.**

■ **The technique of circular breathing is fairly easy to describe, but, like riding a bicycle, knowing how it's done is only the first stage in learning the knack. It's clear that in order to take in air the diaphragm has to drop as in normal intake of breath.**

In order to sustain a reed in vibration during this intake through the nose, a flow of air has to be maintained from a secondary reserve of air. For the brief period of time in which the diaphragm is lowered, the cheeks are pressed inwards, forcing air from the reservoir in the buccal cavity to sustain what would otherwise be a broken supply from the lungs under diaphragmatic control. As a description this is quite straightforward, but to develop the practical skill it is necessary to practice this technique and fail repeatedly before competence is achieved. At this stage, most people suspect that they are doing something wrong, or that the technique is beyond them. The best possible motivation to continue the work is to have a musical idea that is only possible using this technique. Obviously, George Coleman's reason for using the technique is to sustain unbroken phrasing over whole choruses of cyclical chord changes. My reason is more to reveal the various constituents of simple and more complex overtone structures. The technique should be musically necessary — when it is, sustained practice will be rewarded. — EVAN PARKER.

Hog call

WHAT guitars and amps does Tony McPhee of the Groundhogs use on and off stage and what kind of wah-wah did he use on "Split," because I want to get one. — **Alan Higgs, Birmingham.**

■ **I now have a new band, called Terraplane, which is completed by Wilgar Campbell (drums), who is ex-Rory Gallagher, and Alan Fish (bass), who comes from a band in France. We are doing gigs all over the country and hope to record a single shortly. We're going right back to the roots, with rhythm and blues and early rock, so at the moment I'm not using any electronic gadgets. I play a 1961 Fender Stratocaster on stage and records, and on stage I use a custom-built 50-watt Marshall combination which has Celestion G12 speakers. I also use my radio mike transmitter and receiver which cuts out the guitar lead. This was made for BBC outside broadcasts. I have been using the Marshall amp on records but I shall shortly be using an old Guild 25-watt amp in the studio. The wah-wah I used on "Split" was a Schaller, with metal casing, and I haven't seen one like it for about ten years, so you'll have quite a job finding one. — TONY McPHEE.**

H-eavy, Jon

WHY did Jon Hiseman drop the "h" from his Christian name? — **Sydney Beckett, Bromley, Kent.**

■ **It was pure chance due to a printing error in an advertisement in the Melody Maker when I was a semi-pro playing with Ian Bird's Quintet at the now-demolished Green Man at Blackheath 13 or 14 years ago. It looked good so I decided to keep it! — JON HISEMAN.**

Thin sound

I WAS interested to read in the MM about the electronic harmonizer used by Thin Lizzy. They said it came from the USA but I was wondering if it is possible to acquire one in Britain? **(Steve Deeming, Long Lawford, Rugby).** Has Brian Robertson definitely left Thin Lizzy and if so what are his plans for the future and who has replaced him? What are their birthdays? **(Sarah Devoy, Cardiff).**

■ **The electronic harmonizer used by Thin Lizzy is the Eventide H910, which is made by Eventide Clockworks Inc, 265 West 54th Street, New York, USA, but is available in Britain from Feldon Audio Ltd, 126 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5PH. Brian Robertson is still with the band and does most of their work, but plans in due course to form his own group with bassist Jimmy Bain, who used to be with Ritchie Blackmore. This is, however, unlikely to materialise for some time, as Brian is at present touring America with Thin Lizzy and will be touring Britain with them in November. He plays solo lead guitar on two tracks of their new album, "Bad Reputation," which is now available on Vertigo. These are "Opium Trail" and "Killer Without A Cause." He shared lead with Scott Gorham on "That Woman's Gonna Break Your Heart." Birthdays are Brian Robertson 12/Feb/1956, Phil Lynott 20/Aug/1949, Brian Downey 27/Jan/1951 and Scott Gorham 17/Mar/1951.**

Saxy lady

WHAT saxophones, mouthpieces and reeds are used by Barbara Thompson, leader of Paraphernalia and Jubiaba? — **Charles Dovey, Acton.**

■ **Here is a list of all my equipment: Selmer Mark VI tenor sax with gold Berg Larsen 130/0/M mouthpiece and Rico or Rico Royal No. 3 reeds. Buffet-Crampon tenor sax with the same mouthpiece and reeds. An old silver-plated Martin soprano sax with Selmer E ebonite mouthpiece and Rico No 3 reeds. Conn underslung alto sax with Meyer ebonite 5-star mouthpiece and Rico No. 3 reeds. Pan-American baritone sax with Berg Larsen 130 stainless steel mouthpiece and Rico No. 3 reeds. Geminhardt (American) open-hole silver flute which I bought off a member of the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Armstrong silver alto flute which has had to be returned because the Americans have a different system of tuning. Concert pitch A is 444 hz in Europe whereas it is 440 in the States. A very beautiful hybrid piccolo which has Rudall Carte solver keywork and a Flutemaker's Guild body. Pre-war Boosey and Hawkes B-flat ebonite clarinet with the original mouthpiece. Boosey and Hawkes Regent clarinet in A. My main instruments for use with my own bands are the tenors, soprano, alto and flutes. — BARBARA THOMPSON.**